

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application and are each amended by the foregoing amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that support for amended Claims 1-12 is self-evident from Applicants' originally-filed disclosure, including the original claims and figures. As such, no new subject matter is introduced by the foregoing amendment to the claims.

The Office Action objected to the Abstract for being more than one paragraph in length and for not referencing the PCT upon which the pending application is based. Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over ul Azam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,566,224; hereinafter "ul Azam") in view of Buckley et al. (U.S. Patent NO. 6,106,121; hereinafter "Buckley"). Claims 2, 3, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over ul Azam in view of Buckley as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Green (GB Patent No. 2295241). Applicants note with appreciation that the Office Action indicated that dependent Claims 9 and 10 include allowable subject matter.

In response to the objection to the Abstract, the foregoing amendment amends the Abstract to remove the reference to Figure 4 and to have the form of a single paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is sufficiently addressed by the foregoing amendment.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully submit that ul Azam and Buckley do not render obvious these claims. For example, Claim 1 recites:

a background display layer configured to be selectively changeable between a reflecting state and a colored, non-reflecting state based on electrical control signals, the background display layer including,

a display layer configured to be selectively changeable between a transparent state and a colored state based on the electrical control signals, and

a reflecting layer; and

a foreground display layer disposed over the background display layer and configured to be selectively changeable between a transparent state and a non-transparent state based on other electrical control signals.

Referring to the non-limiting example shown in Applicants' Figure 4, a display 10 concludes a background display layer including a display layer 102 and a reflecting layer 103. The display 10 also includes a foreground display layer 101 disposed over the background layer 102 and 103.<sup>1</sup>

The display layer 102 can include a conventional matrix display and can be changed electrically from a transparent state into a nontransparent colored state (e.g., a white state). In this nontransparent colored state, the display layer 102 prevents light from striking some or all of the reflecting layer 103 such that electrical control signals can change the background display layer between a reflecting state (i.e., when at least a portion of the reflecting layer 103 is exposed) and a colored nonreflecting state (i.e., when the display layer 102 is controlled such that at least a portion of the display layer 102 is in a colored state).<sup>2</sup> The foreground display layer 101 can include a conventional matrix display and is configured to be selectively changeable between a transparent state and a nontransparent state (e.g., when pixels of the foreground display layer 101 are set to a black color).<sup>3</sup>

In this way, many display variations can be obtained. For example, in one mode of operation, the background display layer can be set such that the entirety of display layer 102 is in a white-colored state such that light does not reflect on the reflecting layer 103. Text and/or images then formed on the foreground display layer 101 are shown against the white

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<sup>1</sup> See Applicants' specification at page 2, lines 29-34.

<sup>2</sup> See Id. at page 3, lines 8-15.

<sup>3</sup> See Id. from page 2, line 35, to page 3, line 7.

background of the display layer 102 and not the reflecting background of the reflecting layer 103.<sup>4</sup>

The suggested combination of ul Azam and Buckley fails to teach or disclose amended Claim 1. For example, ul Azam discloses the use of a display 108 mounted behind a transparent window of a mirrored surface 109, thus providing the ability to display functional or operational information in a superimposed manner.<sup>5</sup> ul Azam also discloses the alternative use of positioning the display 108 behind the mirrored surface and controlling the reflectivity of the mirrored surface 109 such that the display 108 can be visible through the mirrored surface 109.<sup>6</sup>

However, as correctly acknowledged on page 3 of the Office Action, ul Azam is silent on a background display layer and a foreground display layer as recited in amended Claim 1. Specifically, ul Azam fails to disclose a background display layer, which includes a reflecting layer and a display layer selectively changeable between the transparent state and a colored state, and a foreground display layer configured to be selectively changeable between a transparent state and a nontransparent state. Rather, ul Azam only discloses the display 108 and the mirrored surface 109, which cannot be changed between a reflecting state and a nonreflecting state.

To remedy the deficiencies of ul Azam with respect to Claim 1, the Office Action turns to the teachings of Buckley, which describes a matrix display 18 including a liquid cell layer 24 and a thin film transistor grid 26.<sup>7</sup> The matrix display 18 is used in a mirror 10, in which the matrix display 18 is positioned between a glass layer 23 and a reflective layer 32.<sup>8</sup> By providing signals to the matrix display 18, translucent alphanumeric characters can be

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., Id. at page 3, lines 25-30.

<sup>5</sup> See ul Azam at Figure 1 and at column 3, lines 33-36.

<sup>6</sup> See Id. at column 3, lines 39-45.

<sup>7</sup> See Buckley at Figures 2 and 3; and at column 3, lines 46-52.

<sup>8</sup> See Id. at Figure 2 and column 3, lines 64-66.

superimposed on images reflected on the reflective layer 32.<sup>9</sup>

In contrast to amended Claim 1, Buckley does not disclose a background display layer selectively changeable between a reflecting state and a colored nonreflecting state. Rather, the reflective surface 32 of Buckley cannot be changeable between a reflecting state and a colored nonreflecting state; that is, the reflective surface 32 always remains reflective. Moreover, the reflective surface 32 does not include a display layer selectively changeable between a transparent state and a colored state based on electrical control signals, as recited in amended Claim 1. As such Buckley fails to remedy the deficiencies of ul Azam with respect to amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 is patentable over the suggested combination of ul Azam and Buckley. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 2-7 depend from independent Claim 1 and are patentable over ul Azam and Buckley for at least the reasons discussed above. Moreover, amended Claim 8, and claims depending therefrom, recites at least the features of amended Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 8 and its dependent claims are also patentable for the reasons discussed above.

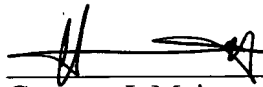
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<sup>9</sup> See Id. at column 4, lines 7-15, and at Abstract, lines 1-12.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Chien H. Yuan  
Registration No. 48,056

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)

James J. Kulbaski  
Registration No. 34,648

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